

STURBRIDGE, MASS.

Mr. Evans.—Since the 21 Sabbath in last October, 112 persons have been added to the church of Christ under my pastoral care, as fruits of a religious revival, which still continues with some abatement of interest. Not far from thirty have also been received into the Baptist communion during the same period. Among these are individuals from all classes in society, and of all ages, from twelve to eighty years.

My worthy predecessor in the ministry, who was removed to another field of labor in the autumn of last year, had for a long time been scattering the seed of divine truth with a diligent hand; but for five or six years past was not permitted to witness any thing like a spiritual harvest. The "precious seed," however, was not lost. During the last summer there began to appear no doubtful indications of good, in consequence of some special efforts made by the Pastor, in the church, and in the Sabbath School. Early in September a protracted meeting was held; but not without first entering thoroughly into the work of preparation for it. In some of the preparatory prayer-meetings it was evident to all present that the Spirit of God was moving over the church. True, the sigh, the solemn, anxious communion, uttered a language, which could not be misunderstood. A revival began as soon as Christians began to prepare for it.

The protracted meeting continued three days, and terminated in the happiest results. In the course of one week from the commencement of the exercises, about 300 indulged the hope that they had made their peace with God. No effervescence of animal sympathy was apparent,—no "strange fire" was seen mingling with the heavenly ardor that glowed in Christian hearts when the glory of the Lord thus appeared in the congregation of his people.

Not did the revival abate when the exercises of the protracted meeting were past and the ordinary means of grace returned; but on the contrary it seemed to increase in power for several months. This will appear somewhat remarkable when it is understood that he who had been the pastor of this church for thirteen years, and in all that time had enjoyed the unbroken confidence of the whole community and enjoys it still, was called away to another sphere of labor, and his successor came and was ordained, during these months of increasing interest. I mention these things because they magnify the grace of God, and illustrate, clearer than any thing else can, the depth and the genuineness of the religious feeling which prevailed among the people of God at that time. Surely we of all others must exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

J. S. CLARK.

ASSEMBLY'S NARRATIVE.

We copy from the Philadelphia, with the omission of only a paragraph or two, the part of the "Narrative of the state of religion within the bounds of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America," for May, 1882, which relates to revival of religion. The remainder of the Narrative is devoted chiefly to a brief view of the proceedings of benevolent Societies, &c.

In reviewing the events of the past year, as detailed in the reports of the Presbyteries, we cannot fail to be struck by the manifold interpositions of divine mercy. At the rising of the last Assembly, painful apprehensions were felt, by those who love our Zion, that times of darkness and trial were approaching. The political contentions which agitated the public mind, and the lamented contentions among ourselves, seemed to present formidable barriers against the progress of the Redeemer's cause. A dark cloud obscured the future, and we could not but justly fear the frowns of divine displeasure. An unhalloed spirit of party so far destroyed the harmony and Christian affection among our members, as to excite exultation in the ranks of the enemies of the Gospel, and to clothe our church in mourning.

And it seems a remarkable circumstance, designed to bring our whole church in the dust before God, and to banish forever the baleful spirit of sectional jealousy from our councils, that the showers of blessing have descended upon all portions of our wide extended bounds, and crowned the labors of our ministry generally, with precious tokens of divine approbation.

It is thus worthy of special commemoration; that while our prospects at the beginning of the past year were darkened by unaccountable discords, while the obstacles to the progress of a work of grace, were everywhere multiplying, and while our sin seemed to call for the visitations of wrath; we are called upon to record more of the loving kindness of the Lord toward our churches generally, and more of the triumphs of grace over the powers of sin, than in any other year of our history.

It is our delightful privilege to report, that sixty-eight Presbyteries have been blessed with the special influence of the Holy Spirit, reviving the churches, and bringing perishing sinners to the saving knowledge of the truth. In these highly favored Presbyteries, about seven hundred congregations are reported as having been thus visited in rich mercy. In many of these places, thus refreshed by the showers of divine grace, the displays of the power of the Gospel have been abundant, beyond example. Several Presbyteries have had their whole territory pervaded by an heavenly influence, and every congregation has become a harvest-field for the ingathering of souls, to the fold of the good Shepherd. The following list includes those Presbyteries, which have been distinguished by a mighty prevalence of the work of God, viz.

Londonderry, Champlain, Troy, Albany, Columbia, Watertown, Oswego, Oneida, Otsego, Cortland, Chenango, Delaware, Cayuga, Geneva, Buffalo, Detroit, Hudson, North River, Newark, Elizabethtown, D. of Columbia, Ontario, Chittenden, West Hanover, Lexington, Niagara, Hopewell, Georgia.

These bodies send us the animating message, that all or nearly all their churches have enjoyed a precious season of revival. "Never," says the report from West Hanover, "have we had the privilege of recording so many signal triumphs of Almighty grace." "The angel of the Lord, the ever-living Gospel in his hand, has passed through our borders, and has brought salvation to almost every house." "So powerful and extensive has been the divine influence among us, that one district is known, where not one adult could be found unconcerned upon the subject of religion." "On some occasions, a whole congregation, without one exception, have been prostrate before God, anxiously inquiring for salvation." "Eighteen of our congregations have been revived, and in one of them 300 hopeful conversions have taken place." "Every church within our bounds," says the report from Niagara, "has shared in the accession gift, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

The following Presbyteries report a very interesting work of grace within their respective bounds, extending however only to a part of their congregations:

Tioga, Bath, Bedford, New York, New York, 3d, Long Island, Oneida, Huron, Portage, Grand Isle, Orleans, Stearns, Newton, Sauquoit, Philadelphia, Newell, Carleton, Huntington, Erie, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Athens, Miami, Oxford, Madison, St. Louis, Trunkall, St. Charles, Elmore, Christian Union, Shelby, Muhlenberg, Winchester, Orange, North Alabama, Louisville, Concord, Tombigbee, Union, South Alabama.

Thus the voice of praise and thanksgiving is heard from our most distant borders. An harmonious testimony comes from the north and the south, the east and the west, proclaiming that the past has been a year of the right hand of the Most High.

In the details of these numerous revivals, we cannot fail to notice some circumstances, which distinguish the present age, and manifestly deserve particular attention. One of these is the great extension of this work of grace. Formerly, it was a prevalent opinion, that some places and some communities were so entirely occupied and strongly fortified by the enemy, that no rational hopes could be cherished, that they would ever rejoice in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. So that it is a reflection to the existence of a work of grace in such localities, we have been ready to say, "The Lord would make windows in Heaven, might such a thing be! But these conclusions of unbelief have been put to shame, by the easy conquests which divine love has recently achieved, in the very strong holds of proud infidelity, over the congregated forces of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Some sterile regions, where scarcely a plant of righteousness was ever seen, have become like the garden of the Lord. And in some communities, heretofore distinguished by the triumphant dominion of worldliness and impiety, the transformation, produced by the influence of the Spirit, is so great, as to force all men to exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

It is another distinguishing characteristic of the recent revivals, that so many of the subjects of renewing grace have been found in these classes of society, in which instances of conversion have usually been of very rare occurrence. We have been accustomed to consider men of wealth and political influence, whose characters were already formed under an unholy influence, as far removed from all probability of

conversion, and almost beyond the reach of the means of grace. But we have lately been most impressively taught, not thus to limit the Holy One of Israel. In many places, the most numerous instances of conversion have been found among the most active and influential members of society. And in several instances, the leading persons in the community, consisting of professional men, men of wealth, talents and high political standing, have been subdued to the obedience of faith, and led willingly to renounce forever all glory, excepting that which is found in the cross of Christ.

One more distinctive feature of the work of grace, with which our churches have been so extensively blessed, is found in the resistless energy which has accompanied it. Several of our reports recount such triumphs of grace, over all opposition, as have rarely been witnessed. So overpowering have been the manifestations of the divine presence in some places, that hardly a single adult, in a whole community, remained unaffected. Large congregations have been brought by the mighty power of God, anxiously to inquire with united voice, what must we do to be saved? Often, and in places far distant from each other, has the thrilling spectacle been presented, before angels and men, of the wealthy and the learned, the eminent and high-minded, falling prostrate at the footstool of mercy and prayer. The barriers of pride, the fortresses of false religion, and the strong holds of infidelity and licentiousness, have been utterly demolished, by the manifested presence of the Holy One. Bitter party contentions have been forgotten, and deadly feuds have come hand in hand, bathed in tears of contrition, to the Savior's feet.

We cannot omit to mention the extraordinary extension of this gracious influence. From the shores of the northern lakes to the plains of Florida; from the Atlantic seaboard to the banks of Missouri, we have one united testimony, that the Lord hath appeared to build up Zion. In the crowded city, and the forest wild—in the halls of legislation, and the cottages of the poor—in the circle of refined elegance, and amidst the rudest among men of letters, and savages of the forest, there has been one prevailing influence; one indiscriminate transformation of character. They do all praise to our own language the wonderful works of God.

It is a very interesting and gratifying circumstance, that the same reports which announce these revivals, so wholly unaccompanied in number and extent by any previous testimony as to the means, which have been blessed to their production and promotion. From these authentic sources, the Assembly has collected some valuable information upon a subject so vitally important; and commends to the special attention of all the churches, the narrative of the operations of the Spirit of God, within their bounds; there is the clearest evidence, that the blessings bestowed, have been in proportion to the appropriate means employed. A spirit of fervent prayer, deep humiliation, and the earnestness of the church, have been the means of procuring and judicious labors on the part of the ministry, uniformly preceded the displays of pardoning mercy.

And in these spiritual harvests the amount of good actually accomplished, has appeared to depend upon the diligence applied, with which the field has been cultivated; inasmuch that in several cases, the reports distinctly indicate the work of grace extended to every place where an active and faithful ministry was enjoyed. The heart-searching appeal which this statement addresses to all our members and ministers, needs no argument to enforce it.

Upon another subject deeply interesting to all, there is a general unbroken testimony from all parts of the church, which have been blessed with a refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We refer to the rich and precious blessings which have attended the numerous protracted meetings which have been held throughout our borders. Whatever honest difference of opinion there may have been, as to the utility of such convocations; whatever fears may have been cherished as to their tendency, the question now seems decided, that the Lord has signally owned and abundantly blessed them; and that the seal of divine approbation is visibly and indelibly fixed upon them. From all portions of the church, we hear the language of praise, for the great things God has done by means of protracted meetings, and of the glorious displays of converting grace which have rendered them eminently seasons of mercy.

Among the means which the Lord has graciously owned and blessed during this year of divine mercy, of our reports specially commend the influence of temperance societies. It is now a well established fact, that the common use of strong drink, however moderate, has been a fatal, soul-destroying barrier against the influences of the Gospel. Consequently, wherever total abstinence is practiced, a powerful instrument of reviving the Holy Spirit, and a powerful avenue of access to the hearts of men opened to the power of the Holy Spirit. The temperance reformation has been a harbinger, preparing the way of the Lord; and the banishment of that liquid poison, which kill both soul and body, has made way for the immediate entrance of the Spirit and the work of the glorious train of divine mercies.

Signally efficacious also in promoting this glorious work of grace, have been those institutions which afford religious instruction to the young,—which convey the messages of salvation to children, before they are steeped against them by pride and prejudice,—which apply the balm to their diseased hearts before the malady has become incurable, and which present the overtures of a Saviour's love to those who are on the threshold of life, and not yet fully enlisted under the banner of Satan. The discovery seems to have been reserved to bless this age of the world, that the fairest and most promising field of religious effort, is afforded by early childhood,—that it is not until the enemy is entrenched and fortified, before the attempt is made to dislodge him,—and that the best method of preaching the Gospel, most effectively, to a whole generation of children. Sunday Schools and Bible classes accomplish this most benevolent object. And the history of the past year, affords abundant evidence, that the high and holy spirit of the Holy Spirit, has been poured out upon our churches, and calling so many thousands of sinners to repentance, affords a full and cheering testimony upon this subject. Sunday Schools have proved the nurseries of revivals; their teachers have been efficient, devoted laborers in gathering souls to Christ; and the children of the cross given up their young hearts to God, and sung Hosannah to the Son of David: blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

We notice only one thing more in the reports of revivals, and that is the mighty power with which the simple truths of the Gospel have been attended. We have been too prone to believe, that the champions of infidelity were only to be encountered by subtle and skillful argumentation,—that the pride of unsanctified intellect was only to be humbled by triumphant reasonings of logic and philosophy. But the experience of the past year has made us wiser. We have had a practical comment upon that inspired declaration,—"not by might nor power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

While the high and holy spirit of the Holy Spirit, has been poured out upon our churches, while many of the conquests of redeeming mercy have been achieved among those who were considered beyond the reach of any gracious influence, while a mighty host of men, high-minded, talented men, have laid down their lives for the Kingdom of God, and while the events are not to be ascribed to any new energy of human means. No prophet has arisen clothed with miraculous powers, to overwhelm opponents with resistless demonstration; no new messages from heaven have furnished with mightier weapons the soldiers of the cross. On the contrary, the word has been preached with greater plainness and simplicity than ever. And the solemn influence of the doctrines of the cross, and earnest, urgent appeals to the understandings and consciences of men, have been the means, rendered mighty through God to the pulling down strong holds, and rubbing proud hearts in the dust of humiliation.

Who can estimate the precious influence which must be exerted by these 700 renovated churches upon the whole population of our country—upon present and future generations? What energy of moral power is thus imparted to the cause of truth? How many foundations of salvation are thus opened to gladness and glory? The fruits of this astonishing work of grace are valuable to the church and the world, beyond all human computation. In numerous communities, the predominant influence is now consecrated to the cause of God. How many mothers have been prepared by grace, to train up their children for the Kingdom of Heaven. And what a noble army of young men has renounced the honors of the world, and devoted themselves to the cause of the Redeemer. Never, until the destinies of eternity are unfolded, can be known the full amount of blessings bestowed in these dispensations of mercy. Verily the Lord has done great things for us; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Every minister and member in our communion, should be encouraged and animated, by such rich experiences of Divine goodness, to more entire devotedness, and untiring diligence, in the Master's cause. The most effective motives presented, to lay aside all distinctions of party, and let the only strife be who shall be most humble, devoted, self-denying.

The Rev. Isaac Huntington, D. D. Bishop of Hopedale, died May 6th, having held his See upwards of 80 years. Dr. Grosy, brother of the Premier, succeeds him.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

LETTER FROM KAAMUAMU TO MR. EVARTS.

The following letter was written by Kaamumu in the Hawaiian language, in reply to one written her by Mr. Everts in December, 1880, shortly before the termination of his labors corresponding to the Hawaiian Islands, and the arrival of this week's arrival, in the highest chair of the island, and has acted as regent during the minority of the king. She was one of the earliest converts, and among the first received to the mission church. The translation was made and the explanatory clauses inserted by Mr. Dingham.

Missionary Herald.

Love to you, Mr. Everts, the director of missionaries, my first brother in Christ Jesus. This is my thought for you and my joy. I now abide by the voice of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, who hath redeemed me from death. I was dwelling in the eye-ball of death, I was clothed and adorned in the glory and likeness of death. When I heard the voice of Jesus as it sounded in my ear, it was refreshing to my bosom, saying, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest." Again the voice of him said, "Whoever is athirst let him come and drink of the water of life." Therefore I arose and came and prostrated myself beneath the shade of his feet, with my great trembling. Therefore do I bear his yoke, with this thought concerning myself, that I am not able to put forth strength adequate to carry his yoke, but of his ability, [to bear it], his aid to me by night and by day; there am I continually abiding by his righteousness [excellence of glory] and his love to me. There do I set my love and my desire and the thought of Jesus, and that the usual process of the church, the Presbytery had proceeded no further than; but now having heard the complaint, as well as Mr. Irving in defense, the Presbytery had come to the conclusion, that by allowing the exercise of alleged supernatural gifts in the church, he had rendered himself unfit to be Minister of the Gospel, and that the usual process of the church, the Presbytery had proceeded no further than; but now having heard the complaint, as well as Mr. Irving in defense, the Presbytery had come to the conclusion, that by allowing the exercise of alleged supernatural gifts in the church, he had rendered himself unfit to be Minister of the Gospel, and that the usual process of the church, the Presbytery had proceeded no further than; but now having heard the complaint, as well as Mr. Irving in defense, the Presbytery had come to the conclusion, that by allowing the exercise of alleged supernatural gifts in the church, he had rendered himself unfit to be Minister of the Gospel, and that the usual process of the church, the Presbytery had proceeded no further than; 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Further information apply at the Academy. Jan 22.

